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Physiological Chemistry.

Composition of Human Fat. By CHARLES A. MITCHELL (*Analyst*, 1896, **21**, 171—173).—The author has investigated the composition of human fat taken from the kidneys.

Excepting the refractive index or the Valenta test, most of the recognised tests were employed. The conclusion is, that the acids of human fat consist of 70 per cent. of liquid acids, principally oleic acid, and 30 per cent. of solid acids, probably palmitic, with small amounts of stearic and myristic acids and traces of lower fatty acids.

L. DE K.

Decomposition of Amygdalin in the Animal System. By ERNEST GÉRARD (*J. Pharm.*, 1896, [6], **3**, 233—236).—The author has determined what digestive ferments react with amygdalin, and has also examined the action of the microbes of the stomach on the same

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compound. The thoroughly washed pancreas of a rabbit gave no hydrocyanic acid, and no product which reduced Fehling's solution when kept in an incubator for 80 hours at 36—37°, with 40 c.c. of thymolised water holding 0·4 gram of pure amygdalin in solution. A portion of the small intestine taken 75 cm. from the pylorus when treated in the same way gave reactions of hydrocyanic acid, but no reduction with Fehling's solution. Parts of the intestine near to the cæcum gave the same results. The organisms of the stomach bring about a similar decomposition. J. J. S.